

Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on January 23, 1998 in H 769

Present: Mr. R. Côté, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, secretary, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms. J. Brathwaite, Ms A. Kerby, Ms A. Siano, Ms C. Hughes, Ms A. Ghadban, Prof. B. Barbieri, Ms C. Cogger, Ms C. Blackwood, Mr. J. Edwards, Mr. D. Hinton, Mr. Wayne Kennedy, Ms M. West, Mr. A. Feldman, Ms L. Toscano, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms L. Lipscombe

Absent with Regrets: Ms T. Ryan, Mr. B. Barua, Mr. R. MacIver, Mr. M. Bujold

Delegates: Mr. G. McGrath replaced Mr. H. Zarins, Ms G. Panetta replaced Ms K. Hedrich, Ms C. Hedrich replaced Ms A. Vroom, Ms H. Bairos replaced Ms L. Rubinlicht

Guests: Ms J. Chegrinec, Ms R. Aldworth

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Côté requested the addition of the item Concordia Council on Student Life Awards to the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda with the amendment was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms Blackwood. The motion was carried.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Côté welcomed Council back. He spoke briefly about the effects of the "ice storm" and about the difficulties that students, staff and faculty have had to deal with. Mr. Côté drew Council's attention to the Student Services Storm Bulletin which was distributed to approximately 10,000 students during the week of January 19th. This bulletin described the services available to students as well as the revised academic calendar. He took the opportunity to thank Student Services staff who reacted quickly and with sensitivity to the situation.

At the last CCSL meeting, it had been decided that small working groups would meet at the beginning of January to discuss two issues - CSU Bill of Rights and Student Rights as Partners in the University. As the University was effectively closed the first two weeks of January, this did not happen. Therefore this meeting will resume where the December meeting left off without the benefit of the working groups.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 19

Mr. Côté updated Council on the following issues arising from the December 12th minutes:

- 4.3 A list serve has been approved for CCSL. It is expected that the January 23rd minutes will be distributed in this manner. However "paper copies" will be available for anyone who wishes it.
- 4.4. Mr. MacIver has been advised of the situation concerning the vending machines and will take action.
- 4.5 A letter was sent to the Chair, Board of Governors concerning student representation on Capital Campaign Committees. A copy was distributed to Council members.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms West. The motion was carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 **Student Bill of Rights:** Ms Cogger addressed the issue. She briefly gave the background of this document. She also explained that as Me Freedman had informed her that Bill of Rights is an American term, the proper name for this document is the *Student Charter of Rights & Responsibilities*. Ms Cogger informed Council that input into this document has been gathered from many areas of the university. She thanked particularly Ms Kerby, Ms Spilhaus and Ms Belson for their assistance. She reiterated that this document informs students of their responsibilities as well as their rights.

A motion was made by Ms Cogger, seconded by Ms Kerby:

It was moved that the Student Charter of Rights & Responsibilities be forwarded for approval to Senate and to the Board of Governors with the support of CCSL

After some discussion, Council felt that it supported the document in principle and applauded the initiative. However it was felt there may be some editing or fine tuning needed with respect to semantics or clarification. The following points were raised as "friendly amendments":

2.5 (d) ".....a place where students may leave written materials for the instructor". Professor Barbieri felt this clause could potentially be problematic and should be clarified.

3.3 Ms Cogger indicated that this clause has been deleted from the document. It was felt that Bill 65 dealt with this issue.

4.1/4.2 Concern was expressed about legal ramifications of these clauses as the legislation respecting privacy is complex.

Mr. Feldman asked that 4.1 & 4.2 be moved to the Academic Rights section.

4.5 The last sentence is redundant and should be deleted.

Mr. Côté indicated that it was acceptable for Council to approve a document which it understands is debatable or perfectible once it arrives on agenda of Senate and Bog.

The question was called by Ms Cogger, seconded by Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Côté asked if Council wished to end debate on the issue and vote on the proposed motion. All were in favour.

The motion was carried

The motion by Ms Cogger, seconded by Ms Kerby was put to a vote.

The motion was passed unanimously

4.2 **Student Rights As Partners in the University.** Mr. Côté confirmed that the motion (moved by Mr. Feldman and seconded by Ms Cogger) is on the floor and discussion is basically to continue on this subject. Mr. Feldman addressed the issue. With respect to the letter sent to

Board of Governors concerning student representation, Mr. Feldman expressed concern that the Board of Governors was not asked to reply to this issue. He was content to leave this issue as is for now. However if there are concerns raised again, he felt the Board of Governors should be asked to make a formal response as to how student representation is being implemented.

As the December minutes did not clearly reflect the revisions, Mr. Feldman clarified that the motion before Council is:

Be it resolved that the Concordia Council on Student Life request that the Board of Governors confirm the right of students, through their representative associations to enter into formal agreements with the University with respect to space designated for student activities.

Professor Barbieri felt that a small working group should still deal with this issue. Mr. Feldman disagreed. The resolution has been "watered down". It is a simple, clear question. As Professor Barbieri felt there was still more information needed to make an informed decision, he asked if the word "confirm" on the second line of the motion could be changed to "clarify". Mr. Feldman said that change would mean CCSL basically is saying nothing. If CCSL cannot say that students have this right, how can we then ask the Board of Governors to confirm this. It is the place of CCSL to make a recommendation.

Mr. Cote said the intent was to affirm a principle. When we look at historical practice we find that there are a number of agreements that have taken place between the University and student associations. This right has been confirmed by the sheer existence of such agreements.

Ms Kerby requested that a "friendly amendment" to change the word "confirm" to "affirm". Mr. Feldman and Ms Cogger had no objection.

Mr. Feldman requested speaking privileges for Ms Aldworth, President of the CSU. Ms Aldworth informed that McGill Student Union already has these rights. It is not a new concept, it exists in universities across Canada. She felt it was important this right should exist at Concordia.

Mr. Côté confirmed that the revised motion before Council is as follows:

Be it resolved that the Concordia Council on Student Life request that the Board of Governors affirm the right of students through their representative associations to enter into formal agreements with the University with respect to space designated for student activities

The motion was put to a vote.

The Motion was carried with two abstention and no objections

5. REPORTS

5a Financial Aid

Ms Brathwaite and a staff member explained the many facets and intricacies of Financial Aid and Awards Office by letting us "eavesdrop" on a conversation between a student and a staff member. Ms Brathwaite informed Council that since Mid June 1997, 19465 students have walked through their doors. 10,148 loans totaling \$21,432,215, 5,197 bursaries totaling \$7,827,635, 812 emergency loans totaling \$158,857 have been given out. The Office serves approximately 50% of

the Concordia full-time population. There was a brief question and answer period. Mr. Côté thanked Ms Brathwaite for an informative presentation.

5 b Alumni Affairs

Ms A. Vroom and Ms C. Hedrich spoke briefly on the many different areas and outreach programs of the Alumni Affairs Office. Ms Vroom expanded on the funding available through Alumni Master Card Program for student projects. Concordia has 3 active and Loyola Alumni associations - Loyola, SGW and Concordia. Brochures were distributed to Council detailing the activities of the department. It was reiterated by the office how grateful Concordia is to their alumni and of the contribution they make to their institution. There was brief question and answer period. It was noted that Professor Barbieri had received the Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence. Professor Barbieri expressed his appreciation for the award and said it had been a terrific evening. Mr. Côté thanked Ms Vroom and Ms Hedrich for an interesting and informative presentation.

6. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Mr. Hinton questioned the response time when the power went out in the Hall Building. It was 15 minutes before the emergency lights came on. Mr. Emond answered that the system has been tested regularly and has always responded quickly. However in this instance, the power was "on-off-on-off." The system was fooled and the back-up mode had to be triggered manually by a staff member. This problem is being investigated. Mr. Feldman asked about security procedures at Loyola. Mr. Emond assured Council that security at both campuses will be evaluated.

Mr. Côté took the opportunity to thank Physical Resources for their efficient and sensitive response to needs of the students in the Loyola Residence during the power failure.

Mr. Edwards invited Council to visit the Queer Art Exhibition which is being held in the Atrium of the Library Building for the next 10 days.

Dr. Graub reminded Council about the "Smart Start Program" for new students. Also Counselling & Development are offering special stress management courses.

Mr. Hinton informed Council that he had received student lists for his association which included information on their GPA. He felt this information was confidential and should not have been included on the student lists. Mr. Côté confirmed that requests for student lists must be approved by the Dean of Students Office. The only information the University provides on those approved lists is Name, ID and Faculty. Mr. Hinton was not sure where these lists originated but he confirmed they were not requested through the Dean of Students Office. Mr. Côté said the matter would be investigated.

Ms Kerby informed Council that the Legal Aid Information Services was operating special information clinics on storm related issues. As well Campus Ministry has food vouchers available for needy students. To date \$1500 has been distributed to students.

Ms Siano reminded Council that the Health Fair would be held January 28-29 on the Mezzanine.

Mr. Hinton asked if there was an update on the "clock and light" situation. Mr. Edmond informed Council that the wiring has been completed and the equipment has been ordered. However due to the ice storm, there has been a set-back. With respect to the problem of dim or non-existent lighting in the Hall Building, Mr. Emond felt that a representative from Physical Resources could better answer that query. But he did confirm that improvement of the lighting in the Hall Building was being addressed.

Ms Bairos announced that the Library has decided to waive all fines for overdue books between January 6 and January 25.

Mr. Emond took the opportunity to thank Mr. Côté, the Student Services staff and the students who responded in a professional and innovative way to an unprecedented crisis.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, MS KERBY, RECREATION & ATHLETIC BOARD

A meeting of the Board was held in December. Ms Kerby confirmed that submission was made by the Board to the Task Force on the Revitalization of Loyola. Liaison has begun with the departments of Recreation & Leisure & Exercise Science. The Board is looking forward to meeting with Capital Campaign representatives concerning funds coming forward for the new facility. Discussion also continued on the issue of rationalizing the support needed from the University for Recreation & Athletic facilities. As February is a very busy tournament month for Athletics, the next meeting of the Board will be in March.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There is a motion distributed for your consideration for establishment of the CCSL Awards Committee. Mr. Edwards made the following motion, seconded by Ms Cogger:

Be it resolved that the Concordia Council on Student Life offer again in 1998 its awards for Outstanding contributions to Student Life at the University (Merit, Outstanding Contribution, Media and Teaching Excellence Awards).

Be it further resolved that a committee of CCSL be established to select the recipients of the CCSL Awards.

The membership of the committee should include:

- 2 undergraduate students*
- 1 graduate student*
- 1 Student Services staff member from CCSL*
- 1 Faculty member from CCSL*
- A Director as Chair*

As there was no discussion on the motion, it was put to a vote.

The Motion was carried unanimously

The names of the students (2 undergraduate and 1 graduate) will be forwarded to the Dean of Students Office shortly. The Faculty member will Professor Barbieri, the Student Services Staff members will be Ms C. Hughes, Mr. R. Côté (Chair).

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday, February 20th at 10:00am in AD 131 (Loyola)

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Professor Barbieri, seconded by Mr. Feldman. The Motion was carried unanimously.